

**Expenditure on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan**

2949. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expenditure incurred by the Government on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan during the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(b) the percentage of drop-out for boys and girls;

(c) the number of children out of school at primary and upper primary level; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to address this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) Funds released by the Government of India (GoI) to all States/UTs under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) are given as below:

Year	GoI funds released (Rs. in crore)
2005-06	7527.22
2006-07	10852.20

Budget estimate (BE) for 2007-08 is 10671.00 crore

(b) The dropout rates for boys & girls in 2004-05 were 31.81% and 25.42% respectively at primary level.

(c) As per State Reports there were 70 lakh out of school children during 2006-07.

(d) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing dropout rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of primary and upper primary schools, alternative and flexible schooling interventions to reach "hard to reach" children and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, regular training of teachers, etc. On the other hand, several interventions aiming to improve the demand for schooling through community mobilization, special interventions for enrolment and retention of vulnerable groups of children including girls and children of weaker sections have also been undertaken.